

Pulse Editor:  
Jacquelyn Lewis  
jacquelynlewis@dailyemerald.com

# Pulse Relax

**On Thursday**  
The University Theatre  
celebrates its 1000th  
production

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

## Local poets resuscitate worthwhile pop culture

It is decided. After nine long months of competition and a brief sit on the contest's waiting list, Eugene finally has an official position and four poets to represent the community in this year's National Poetry Slam. Although I don't care who wins what in Chicago this August, it's nice to see that poetry, despite its phlegmatic wheezing and open, oozing bedsores, is still somewhat alive.

So many poets wanted to be a part of the national slam, planners had to book an extra venue in the Windy City so they could accommodate all of them. Maybe the slams were successful only because Star Search is so damn popular these days, or maybe people actually still look for more engaging culture than utter nonsense. It's hard to tell, but it's nice to see people making an effort.

During the course of local playoffs, some poets made the audience want to cut off their ears and jam them into the bloody holes on the sides of their heads. Others gave some glimmer of hope for the future of our culture. Whatever the case, you've got to admire these poets' cajones. It's hard to share what Jack Kerouac called "secret naked doodlings" with a crowd of hypercritical, half-drunken crazies.

But at every slam, excitement and the smell of beer hung in the air, along with a sense of commiseration and a hope for the rising of some strange phoenix — or even a ratty looking chicken for that matter — from the ashes of a culture that used to be.

I sometimes get so wrapped up in my obligations, criticisms and idealistic nostalgia for a past I never even knew, I neglect to participate in what matters to me. I often lose track of where I come from and who I want to be. A lot of us do that. So thank god there are other people who get off their asses and work to keep culture alive.

Winners Martha Grover, Treysi, who prefers to be called by one name, Jahan Khalighi and my personal favorite, Nathan Langston, demonstrated their worthiness by doing something a stupid little monkey-boy like myself can't muster the energy for. They work hard at what they do, and now it's paying off. They didn't let man's foamy rabidness cow them into some silly submission. They used that madness to say something — to make this world a more understanding and better understood place.

Sure, a lot of our poets may not have the big-city flair of some of the

Turn to **Bechard**, page 7



**Joseph Bechard**  
Cultural  
Obstetrician



Mark Baylis Emerald

The long-running MTV series 'The Real World' made a recruiting stop in Eugene on Saturday. Many hopefuls waited in line for over three hours for an interview.

## MTV: On the local scene

MTV makes a stop in Eugene during a nationwide audition spree for 'The Real World,' drawing more than 500 people to the Wild Duck Brewery

### Reporter's notebook

**Mark Baylis**  
Pulse Reporter

When I heard Eugene was one of 12 cities chosen for an open-call audition for the 14th season of MTV's "The Real World," I was not only impressed that the grandpappy of reality TV was still running around amid all its fresh offspring, but I also jumped into immediate MTV speak:

"Tiiight."

I saw the line outside the audition site, the Wild Duck Brewery, from a half-mile away. It was 11 a.m. on Saturday, and it seemed that every club-hopper and conch shell-wearer in town between the ages of 18 and 24 was defying a morning hangover for a shot at fame. I filled out the single-page

application while standing in the line that wound around the outside of the building. It read like a screening application for a singles personal ad:

"Do you currently have a (circle) boyfriend/girlfriend? Where does the relationship stand now? How do you approach a relationship? Are you the pursuer or the pursued?"

I knew why MTV had come to Eugene: Hippies, anarchists, activists — a counter-culture mecca to rival Berkeley's fading reputation. Unfortunately, all my tie-dyes and darks were in the wash. Sizing up the sea of polo shirts and tourniquet jeans, I concluded that either everyone else's were, too, or that counter-culture individuals don't notice MTV ads in the newspaper. But the three-hour wait inside the brewery gave me time to concoct my most anti-establishment, PETA-supporting, manifesto-writing persona that would make these casting directors salivate on their L.A. Gear.

At 2 p.m., when I was ready to tell these folks about the real world of impatience, they called my number.

Ten other hopefuls and myself were seat-

ed around a restaurant table with Damon, a young MTV casting director, trying to look our hippest and most complex. Each of us needed a presence that would make Damon see we were fascinating enough for a nationwide audience of voyeurs to tune in every week for months on end. That's a tough face to make. I think mine ended up looking like a mix between the Fonz and the Cheshire Cat.

Damon explained he would ask each of us a simple get-to-know-you-game question, which we were to answer as articulately as possible. He began with the girl next to me.

Somewhere along the line, I had gotten nervous. I could feel my heart causing vibrations in my spleen and, subsequently, my bladder. As Damon turned to me, my entire constructed persona dissolved with a single, hypothetical question:

"If you were a king of a new country, what would you call the country and what would some laws be?"

With 10 pairs of potential roommate

Turn to **Real World**, page 7

## Mercado expands Eugene's market fare

The new Sunday Mercado Latino focuses on Latin American culture and community in a market-style smattering of food and crafts vendors

**Aaron Shakra**  
Pulse Reporter

Saturday Market now has a Latino community counterpart — Mercado Latino, which commences every Sunday in Washington-Jefferson Park, located at Fifth Avenue and Washington Street.

The event, now in its second week, runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. under the Washington-Jefferson Bridge and centers on Latin American culture and community. A handful of vendors — about 15 — sell food, fresh vegetables and handcrafted goods. Tables and seating are plentiful for those who wish to sit down and eat.

Family is a prevalent theme among many of

the exhibitors. Food vendor Marcelina Ramirez operates the booth "Marcelina's Mexican Food," which sells items such as tamales de mole verde con pollo (green chicken tamales) and pozole con carne de puerco (hominy soup with pork).

The crowd was sparse on Sunday, likely due to competition from the Willamette Valley Folk Festival. When asked if business has been busy the past two weeks, Ramirez answered succinctly, "Más o menos," or more or less.

Ramirez's son, Benjamin Montesinos, whose family spends the week preparing food for the market, said the event fills a cultural gap in Eugene.

"This is a good place for the community to come every Sunday," he said.

Eugene resident Carol Maronay said she heard of the market through a local newspaper and came to indulge her interest in exploring different cultures. However, she said

she expected a larger event.

"I hoped they would have more vendors, but maybe they're just getting started," Maronay said. "They seem to have a pretty good crowd."

Kathy Gonzales, who sells handmade Colombian goods, previously lived in Colombia with her husband, Gabriel. She said she moved back to Eugene to help Colombian craftspeople who are going hungry because of the country's tourist-deprived condition.

Gonzales, who also works for the Springfield school district, said she is thankful for the booth and the market's outdoor setting, and she expects crowds to pick up during the summertime.

"If this works out, we'll probably be here every Sunday," she said.

Contact the Pulse reporter  
at aaronshakra@dailyemerald.com.